

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 EUR-12 ACDA-10 /096 W

----- 076048

P R 241629Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2892

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 3007

FROM MAESTRONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FAHMY PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 23

SUMMARY: AT MARCH 23 ASWAN PRESS CONFERENCE, FONMIN FAHMY SAID EGYPT WOULD OFFICIALLY ASK FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. CRITICIZING ISRAEL'S TERMINATION OF KISSINGER MISSION, HE SAID AMERICA UNDERSTANDS EGYPT'S CONSTRUCTIVE STAND. HE CALLED UPON US NOT TO REMAIN "CAPTIVE OF ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR." FAHMY SAID HE WOULD DISCLOSE FULL DETAILS OF NEGOTIATION TO ARAB FONMINS MEETING MAR 24 IN CAIRO. HE STRESSED THAT EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH US WILL REMAIN NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD MORNING MARCH 23 IN ASWAN, FONMIN FAHMY SAID EGYPT WILL IMMEDIATELY ASK TWO SUPER-POWERS TO CALL GENEVA CONFERENCE TO MEET TO DISCUSS WHOLE ME ISSUE. FAHMY SAID TWO SUPERPOWERS SHOULDER BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN PREVENTING CLASH AND IN TAKING ADEQUATE MEASURES TO REALIZE PEACE. FAHMY EXPECTS EGYPT AND SYRIA TO PARTICIPATE IN REQUESTING RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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FOLLOWING RETURN TO CAIRO, FAHMY SAID HE WILL SEND TWO

OFFICIAL MESSAGES TO USSR AND US ASKING THEM TO CALL GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS WITH ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS METHOD OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. FAHMY ADDED THAT EGYPT WILL RECONSIDER UNEF MANDATE WHICH EXPIRES APRIL 24. HE DESCRIBED SITUATION AS GLOOMY, DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITIES OF CLASHES, AND EXPECTS TENSION TO REACH ITS CLIMAX.

2. WHEN ASKED IF HE EXPECTS OTHER ATTEMPTS ON KISSINGER'S PART TO RETURN TO STEP-BY-STEP POLICY, FAHMY ANSWERED THERE IS NOT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY AND HOLDING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, IF SUCH POLICY IS TO PAVE WAY FOR SOLUTION OF MAIN PROBLEMS AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS ISRAEL WHICH ASKED FOR TERMINATION OF KISSINGER'S MISSION. HE ADDED THAT KISSINGER AFFIRMED THIS IN SEGMENT HE MADE BEFORE LEAVING ISRAEL WHICH TERMINATED HIS MISSION. FAHMY WENT ON TO SAY THAT AMERICA FULLY UNDERSTANDS EGYPT'S CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE STAND.

3. FAHMY SAID THAT RABIN'S WORDS WHEN BIDDING FAREWELL TO KISSINGER ARE BIGGEST PROOF OF ISRAEL'S SENSE OF GUILT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE. HE ADDED THAT ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR WAS DIRECTED AGAINST US, ITS PEOPLE AND POLICY AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. FAHMY SAID, "I HOPE AMERICA HAS LEARNED LESSON AND WILL NOT ALLOW HERSELF TO BE CAPTIVE OF ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR ALTHOUGH ISRAEL IS FULLY DEPENDENT ON US ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY."

4. FAHMY AID THAT HE WILL DELIVER TODAY (MARCH 24) COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT AT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL GIVING DETAILS OF EGYPT'S STAND AND THE TEXT OF EGYPT'S WORKING PAPER. HE WILL ALSO DISCLOSE SECRETS OF ASWAN TALKS AND ISRAELI PROPOSALS WHICH EGYPT REJECTED BECAUSE ISRAEL WANTED TO END STATE OF WAR WITHOUT HAVING IT SPELLED OUT IN AGREEMENT. WHEN ASKED IF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CLOSED, FAHMY SAID THAT, EVEN IF THEY MET IN CAMERA, HE

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WILL ALLOW PAPERS TO PUBLISH HIS STATEMENT IN FULL.

5. ANSWERING QUESTION ABOUT IMPACT OF FAILURE ON EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, FAHMY SAID THAT NORMAL RELATIONS SHALL CONTINUE WITH US. AL AKHBAR QUOTED FAHMY AS SAYING THAT "OUR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE NATURAL WITH AMERICA. WHEN ASKED IF HE EXPECTS ARAB COUNTRIES TO EXERT PRESSURE BY CUTTING OFF OIL

SUPPLIES, FAHMY ANSWERED, "NO COMMENT".

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## Message Attributes

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